

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE



BY SUE TOWNSEND

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by Sue Townsend
Retold by Pat McGowan



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THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

INTRODUCCIÓN

Adrian Mole tiene 13 años y tres cuartos y se ha propuesto que, a partir de ahora, mejore su vida y su forma de ser. Sin embargo, no siempre es tan fácil. El diario nos cuenta su propia versión de lo que ocurre a su alrededor, la separación temporal de sus padres, el chantaje al que le somete un compañero, la traición de su mejor amigo, sus problemas amorosos y, por si fuera poco, encima le quitan las anginas.

Resumiendo, Adrian nos muestra lo “difícil” que es la vida para un chico de trece años y tres cuartos.

INTRODUCCIÓ

Adrian Mole té 13 anys i tres quarts i s'ha proposat, a partir d'ara, millorar la seva vida i la seva forma de ser. Això no obstant, no sempre és tan fàcil. El diari ens explica la seva pròpia versió del que passa al seu voltant, la separació temporal dels seus pares, el xantatge al que l'ha sotmès un company, la traïció del seu millor amic, els seus problemes amorosos i, a més a més, li treuen les angines.

En resum, Adrian ens mostra el “difícil” que és la vida per a un noi de tretze anys i tres quarts.

INTRODUCTION

SARRERA

Adrian Molek 13 urte eta hiru laurden ditu, eta, hemendik aurrera, bere bizitza eta izaera hobetzea erabaki du. Alabaina, ez da beti erraza. Mutikoaren egunkariak bere inguruan gertatzen denaren bertsio pertsonala ematen digu: gurasoen aldi baterako banantzea, ikaskide batek ezartzen dion txantajea, lagun onenaren traizioa, bere amodio-arazoak, eta, hori guztia gutxi izango bailitzan, anginak kentzen dizkiote.

Laburbilduz, Adrianek hamahiru urte eta hiru laurdeneko mutiko batentzat bizitza zein zaila den erakusten digu.

LIMIAR

Adrian Mole ten 13 anos e mais tres quartos e propúxose que, de agora en diante, mellore a súa vida e a súa forma de ser. Sen embargo, non sempre é tan doado. O diario cóntanos a súa propia versión do que ocorre ó seu arredor, a separación temporal de seus pais, a chantaxe á que o somete un compañeiro, a traizón do seu mellor amigo, os seus problemas sentimentais e, por se fose pouco, aínda van operalo de anxinas.

Resumindo, Adrian amósanos o “difícil” que é a vida para un rapaz de trece anos e mais tres quartos.

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST. NEW YEAR'S DAY

These are my New Year's **resolutions**. I promise that:

- 1) I will help blind people to cross the road.
- 2) I will hang my trousers up.
- 3) I will put my tapes back in their covers.
- 4) I will not start smoking.
- 5) I will stop **squeezing** the **spots** on my face.
- 6) I will be nice to the dog.
- 7) I will help the poor.
- 8) After hearing the terrible noises downstairs last night, I promise never to drink alcohol.

What bad luck! I'm starting the new year with a spot on my chin!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND.

I feel terrible today. It's because my mother was singing loudly at 2 a.m. What a mother! I think my parents are alcoholics. Next year I could be in a children's home.

The dog broke the model ship that my father spent three months building. He was really angry.

The spot on my chin is bigger. It's because my mother doesn't know about vitamins.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH.

My father is ill. Probably because he doesn't get any vitamins. My mother can't see the spot on my chin. The dog ran away and I broke the stereo. Today was not a good day.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7TH.

Nigel, my friend, came to visit on his new bike. It's got a water bottle, a speedometer, a yellow **saddle** and thin wheels.

JANUARY

I'd love a bike like that. I'd go all over the country.

Surely my spot can't get any bigger!

I found a word in my dictionary to describe my father.
Hypochondriac! He's still ill in bed.

We found the dog.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH.

Now my mother is ill. I have to look after both of them. I have been running up and down the stairs all day. I cooked them eggs and beans and pudding. They must be very ill because they didn't eat any of it. I gave it to the dog. I have decided not to become a doctor.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH.

Now the dog is ill. The vet took it away. Mr Lucas from next door came to visit my parents.

He gave my mother some flowers.

MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH.

I went to visit the dog. It has had an operation. The vet showed me a plastic bag with lots of **disgusting** things in it. He had taken them out of the dog. There were even plastic pirates from my father's model ship.

Mr Lucas came to see my mother again. When he left, my father shouted at my mother. He made her cry. I made her a cup of tea. This made her cry too. You can't please some people.

My spot is still there.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH.

My father is back at work. Thank God! I don't know how my mother **stands** him. Mr Lucas came to see if my mother needed any help in the house. He is very kind. Mrs Lucas was cleaning all the windows in their house. She looked very tired.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH.

We went back to school today. When I came home, Mr Lucas was in the kitchen. He was drinking coffee with my mother. They were laughing, but when they saw me, they stopped. I think the Lucases have an unhappy marriage. Poor Mr Lucas.

There's a new girl in our class. She sits next to me in Geography. Her name is Pandora, but she likes being called Box. I don't know why. Perhaps I'll fall in love with her. I'm the right age to fall in love. I'm 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ years old.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH.

Pandora has got long hair the colour of **treacle**. She has quite a good figure. I saw her playing **netball** and her chest was moving up and down. I felt funny. I think this is it!

My father discovered the stereo. I told him the dog broke it. He said that when the dog was better from its operation he would kick it. I hope this is a joke. Mr Lucas was in our kitchen again. My mother is better now, so I don't understand why he keeps coming round.

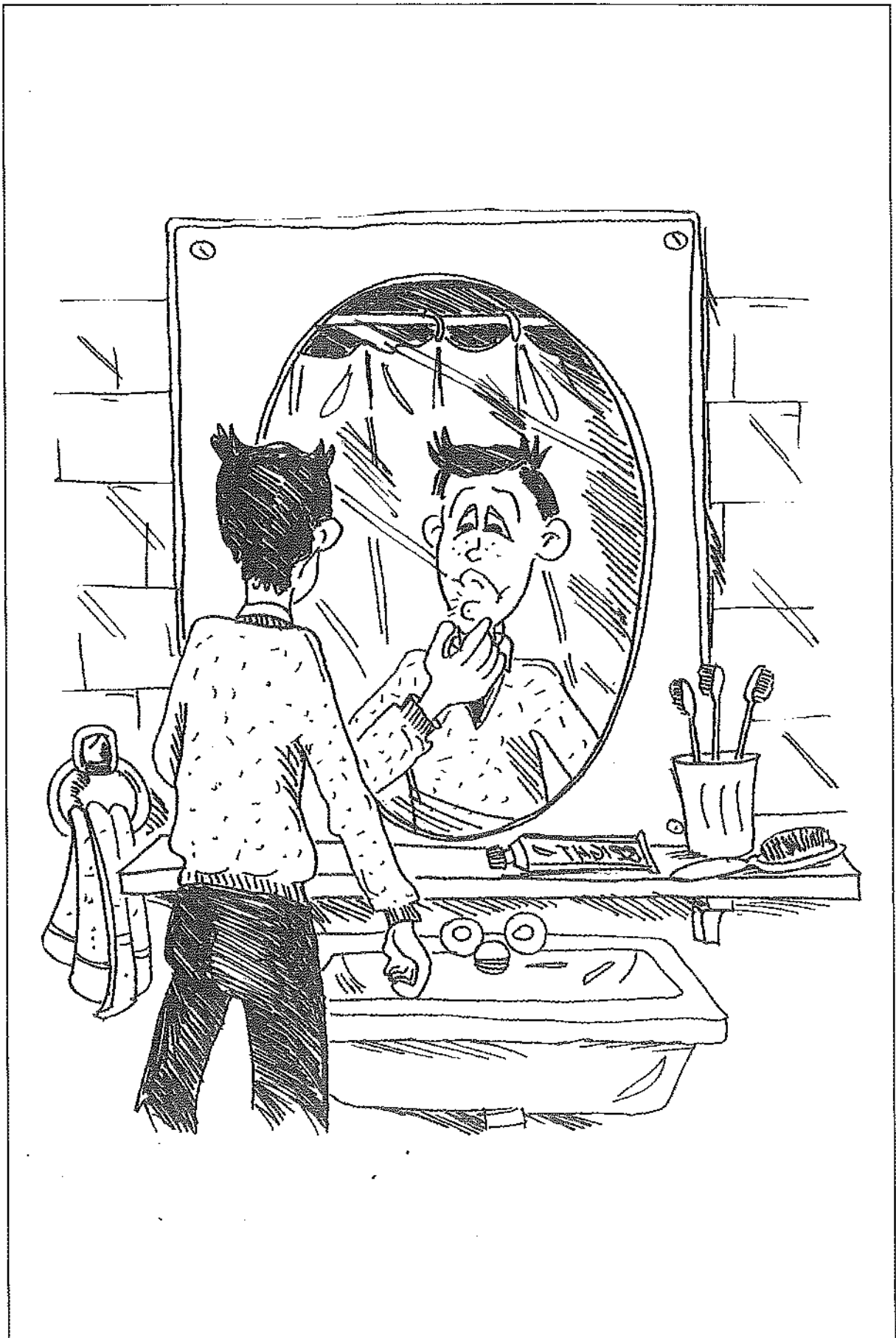
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH.

Mr Lucas came round again. He offered to take my mother shopping in his car. They took me to school. We saw Mrs Lucas on the way. She was carrying big bags of shopping. My mother waved, but Mrs Lucas couldn't wave back!

I sat next to Pandora in Geography today. I told her that her eyes were the same colour as my dog's eyes. She asked what kind of dog it was. I told her it was a **mongrel**.

I brought home a book from the library called *Care of the Skin*. I have left it open on the pages about vitamins. I hope my mother sees it and takes the hint.

My spot is now purple!



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SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH.

Mrs Lucas is making a new path in her garden. Mr Lucas made her a cup of tea. He really is kind.

Nigel wanted me to go to the cinema with him but I'm going to the doctor's about my spot. Nigel said he couldn't see it. He was only being polite.

The doctor didn't examine the spot. He just said, "Don't worry," and "Is everything all right at home?" I told him about my bad home life and my poor diet, but he said I looked fine.

I will get a newspaper round and go to a private doctor.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH.

Mrs Lucas and my mother had a fight about our dog. The dog destroyed Mrs Lucas' new path. My father offered to kill the dog, but then my mother cried, so he said he wouldn't. All the neighbours were listening to them. Sometimes I really hate that dog.

I remembered my promise to help the poor, so I took some old comic books to a poor family nearby. I know they are poor because they only have a black-and-white TV. A boy opened the door. He looked at the books and said, "I've read them!" and shut the door in my face.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH.

Pandora smiled at me today in the school dining room. I couldn't smile back because I was choking on a piece of meat. Typical!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH.

My mother is looking for a job! Soon I'll probably be a teenage criminal out on the streets. And who will look after the dog and give me my dinner? I will have to eat crisps and sweets until my teeth fall out and my skin is ruined. I think my mother is very selfish. She won't be any good anyway. She isn't very

JANUARY

clever and she drinks too much at Christmas.

I'm in a group at school that helps old people. I got an old man called Bert Baxter. He is 89 years old so I don't suppose I will have him for long. I'm going to see him tomorrow. I hope he hasn't got a dog. I'm sick of dogs.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21ST.

Mr and Mrs Lucas are getting a divorce! My mother went next door to comfort Mr Lucas. He must be very sad because my mother was still there when my father came home from work. Mrs Lucas left in a taxi.

My father took me to Mr Baxter's house in the evening. When I knocked on the door, a dog started barking. I heard the sound of bottles and a man shouting loudly. I **ran away**. I hope it was the wrong house.

I saw Nigel on the way home. He told me that Pandora's father is a milkman. I don't think I like her as much now.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22ND.

It's a lie about Pandora's father. He has an excellent job. Pandora says she'll hit Nigel if he tells lies. I'm in love with her again.

My mother has an interview for a job. She's practising her typing and isn't doing any cooking. My life will be terrible if she gets the job.

I have to go and see Mr Baxter tomorrow. It was the right house. Poor me!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH.

Today was the most terrible day of my life! My mother has got a job. Mr Lucas works in the same place. He will drive her there every day. And my father is in a bad mood. He thinks his car is going to **break down**.

But worst of all, Mr Baxter isn't a nice old man. He drinks

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and smokes and has a big dog called Sabre.

But even worse than that! Pandora is going out with Nigel!!! I don't think I'll recover from the shock.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH.

10 a.m. I am ill with worry, too weak to write much. Nobody noticed I didn't eat any breakfast.

2 p.m. I had two aspirins at lunchtime and felt better.

6 p.m. Pandora! My lost love! Now I will never touch your treacle hair!

8 p.m. Pandora! Pandora! Pandora!

10 p.m. Why! Why! Why!

Midnight. Had a sandwich. Feel better. I hope Nigel falls off his bike and is **run over** by a lorry. I will never speak to him again. He knew I loved Pandora.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26TH.

I had to leave my **sickbed** to visit Bert before school. I felt very weak, but an old lady with a long black moustache helped me walk to the front door. Bert was still in bed. He threw the key down and I opened the front door. He was lying in a dirty bed, smoking a cigarette. There was a horrible smell in the room. I think it was coming from Bert. It was a disgusting room. He asked me to go and buy him a newspaper, so I was late for school. I got into trouble. That's what you get for helping people!

I saw Pandora and Nigel standing close together at lunch today.

Mr Lucas is in bed. He's ill because his wife has left him. My mother is looking after him when she finishes work. She is the only person he will see. When will she find time to look after me and my father?



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My father is cross. I think he's **jealous** that Mr Lucas doesn't want to see him.

Midnight. Goodnight Pandora, my treacle-haired love.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST.

It's nearly February and I have nobody to send a Valentine's Day card to.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST.

There was a lot of shouting downstairs last night. I would like my parents to be more **thoughtful**. I need my sleep. I don't expect them to understand what it's like being in love. They have been married for 14 years.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND.

Mrs Lucas came back in a van! She took a lot of flowers and small trees out of the garden. She put them all in the van and left. I had to visit Bert Baxter today. At least I missed the Maths test. Ha! Ha! Ha!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD.

My mother isn't doing any housework these days. She just goes to work, comforts Mr Lucas and reads and smokes. My father's car did break down. I had to show him where the bus stop was. Imagine a man of 40 not knowing where the bus stop is!

My mother is reading a book called *The Female Touch*. She says it's the kind of book that changes your life. It hasn't changed mine, but I only looked at it quickly. It is full of **rude words**. My spot is smaller now.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH.

I had my first **wet dream**! So my mother was right about the book! It has changed my life.

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH.

My mother and father shouted at each other for hours. Nobody cooked any dinner so I went to the Chinese chip shop and bought some chips. I sat at the bus stop and ate them. I felt sad. Came home. Fed the dog. Read a bit of my mother's book. Felt a bit funny. Went to sleep.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH.

My father came into my bedroom this morning. He said he wanted to talk to me. He looked at my photo album, played with my Swiss Army knife and asked me about school. Then he said he was sorry about the shouting yesterday. He said that he and my mother were having a bad time. He asked me if I wanted to say something. I said he owed me 75 pence for the chips. He gave me a pound. I made a profit of 25 pence.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH.

Bert was OK today. He told me about the First World War. He said his life was saved by a Bible he always carried in the top pocket of his shirt. He showed me the Bible. It was printed in 1956. I think he's going a bit senile!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH.

Mr Lucas is staying with us at the moment because his wife has taken all the furniture.

Our heating isn't working. It's freezing.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH.

My father went to London yesterday for work. He rang this evening and said he had lost his wallet and wouldn't be able to get home tonight. Mr Lucas and my mother were trying to fix the heating all night. I went downstairs to help them at ten o'clock but I couldn't open the door. They said it was stuck.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH.

Black Friday! Pandora doesn't sit next to me in Geography any more. Barry Kent does. He blows bubblegum in my ear.

I sent a Valentine's Day card to Pandora.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH. ST VALENTINE'S DAY

I only got one card. It was in my mother's handwriting so it doesn't really count. My mother got an enormous card. It was in the shape of a big elephant. She went all red when she opened it. There was no name in it. She also got a little card from my father. He had written inside it, "Let's try again."

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH.

Mr Lucas moved back to his empty house last night. I don't think he liked all the shouting about the elephant Valentine's Day card.

I went to my grandma's at dinner time. She cooked me a real Sunday dinner with gravy and Yorkshire pudding.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH.

Pandora got 17 cards. Nigel got seven. Even Barry Kent got three! I just smiled when everyone asked me how many I got.

Barry Kent said he would hit me if I didn't give him 50 pence every day. I told him he was wasting his time. I never have any money. He hit me in the goolies and walked away saying, "There's more where that came from!" I must start that newspaper round.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH.

Woke up with a pain in my goolies. Told my mother. She wanted to look. I didn't want her to, so she said she wouldn't give me a note to get out of sports today. Barry Kent hit me again.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH. PRINCE ANDREW BORN 1960.

It's all right for **royalty**. They have bodyguards to protect them. Barry Kent took one whole pound from me today! I wish I knew karate.

It's quiet at home because my parents aren't speaking to each other.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH.

My mother is reading another sex book. It is called *The Second Sex*. She left it on the table in the lounge where anybody could have seen it.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST.

I woke up to find I had my second wet dream. I had to put my pyjamas in the washing machine so my mother doesn't notice. I had a good look at my face in the mirror today. I have five more spots now. I also have a few hairs on my lip. I'll have to start shaving soon.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND.

My father went fishing with the dog. Mr Lucas came for dinner. He ate three pieces of my father's favourite cake. We played Monopoly. I won because I was the only one concentrating properly. My father came in the front door and Mr Lucas went out the back door. There was no cake left for my father. He said he hadn't eaten anything all day. My mother gave him a cheese sandwich for his supper. My father threw it at the wall and said he wasn't a mouse, he was a man, and my mother began to cry. I went out and bought another packet of chips for my dinner. Thank goodness I start my paper round tomorrow.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH.

I got up at 6 a.m. today to start my paper round. I'm delivering the newspapers in a street called Elm Tree Avenue.

MARCH

The people there are very wealthy. All the papers they read are very heavy. Just my luck!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH.

I took the wrong newspapers today. I don't know why everyone was so angry. You'd think they would enjoy reading a different paper for a change.

While I was delivering the newspapers, I saw Pandora coming out of a house on Elm Tree Avenue. So now I know where she lives. She was wearing **riding clothes**. I followed her and saw her riding a fat horse called Blossom. She looked great. Her **chest** was moving up and down. She'll need to wear a bra soon. My heart was **beating** very loudly so I left before she heard it.

People complained because the papers were late.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST.

I got paid today for my paper round. It's slave labour. And I have to give half of it to Barry Kent.

Mr Lucas came round when my father was out.

My spots have disappeared. It must be the early morning air.

MONDAY, MARCH 2ND.

My mother just came into my room and said she had something terrible to tell me. I thought that perhaps she only had six months to live or something like that. But she said, "Life is complicated," and "Marriage is like prison." Then she said, "But **I am fond of you**, Adrian." Fond!!! Then she went out. Marriage isn't like prison. Women can go out every day to the shops. And lots of them go to work. I think she's being melodramatic.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3RD.

I gave Barry Kent his 'protection money' today. I don't understand how there can be a God.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH.

I had a terrible shock this morning. When I went to the newspaper shop this morning, I saw Mr Lucas looking at rude magazines. I saw him choose *Big and Bouncy* and pay for it. He left with it hidden inside his coat. It's full of terrible pictures. I should tell my mother.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH.

My father got his car back from the garage today. He spent the whole day cleaning it. I heard him say goodnight to the car. He's going mad!

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH.

My boss at the newsagents', Mr Cherry, is pleased with my work. He gave me more money and two old copies of *Big and Bouncy*. He told me not to tell my mother. As if I would! I hid them under my bed.

I phoned Social Services today and asked about a home-help for Bert Baxter. I told a lie. I said I was his grandson. They're sending someone to see him on Monday.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH.

After my paper round, I went back to bed and read the magazines from Mr Cherry. I felt very funny.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH.

My mother wouldn't give me a note to get out of sports today so I left my sports clothes at home. My sports teacher, Mr Jones, made me run home to get them. The dog followed me out of the house. When I got to school, it was already there. It joined in the football lesson. It's very good at football. Even Mr Jones was laughing until it punctured the ball!

The headmaster made me take the dog home. I said I would miss my school dinner, but he said it would teach me not to

MARCH

bring pets to school.

The cook was very kind. She kept my meal hot for me. She doesn't like the headmaster!

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH.

When I woke up this morning, my face was covered in big red spots. The doctor can't see me until next Monday. I'll probably be dead on Monday. I may have an awful disease!

I rang my grandma. She came round in a taxi, took me to her house and put me to bed. She gave me my first good meal in weeks.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH.

The emergency doctor came to my grandma's house last night. He said I had acne and that it was very common at my age. My father came round before he went to work. He said if I wasn't out of bed before he got home, he would hit me!

He took my grandma into the kitchen. I heard him say, "Things are very bad between me and Pauline. And all we are fighting about now is who *doesn't* get Adrian." My father made a mistake. He really meant who *did* get me.

So, the worst has happened. My skin is terrible and my parents are separating.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH.

It's true. They are getting a divorce! Neither of my parents wants to leave the house, so my father is going to sleep in the spare room.

My mother gave me £10 this morning and told me not to tell my father. I bought some spot cream for my skin and the new "Abba Greatest Hits" tape. My father gave me £10 and told me not to tell my mother!

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SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH.

The house is very quiet. My parents are sitting in separate rooms. They are both smoking. Mr Lucas has phoned my mother three times. All she says to him is, "Not yet, it's too early." Perhaps he asked her to go to the pub for a drink to forget her problems.

My spots are terrible. The whole school will laugh at me tomorrow.

MONDAY, MARCH 16TH.

I went to school. It was closed. I forgot – it's school holidays. I went to see Bert instead. He is waiting for a visit from a social worker about a home-help.

There was a week's washing-up to do. Bert says he leaves it for me because I do it so well. I came home. Nobody was in, so I played my new Abba tape at full volume until the deaf woman next door shouted at me.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH.

Looked at *Big and Bouncy*. Measured my 'thing'. It was 11 centimetres.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH.

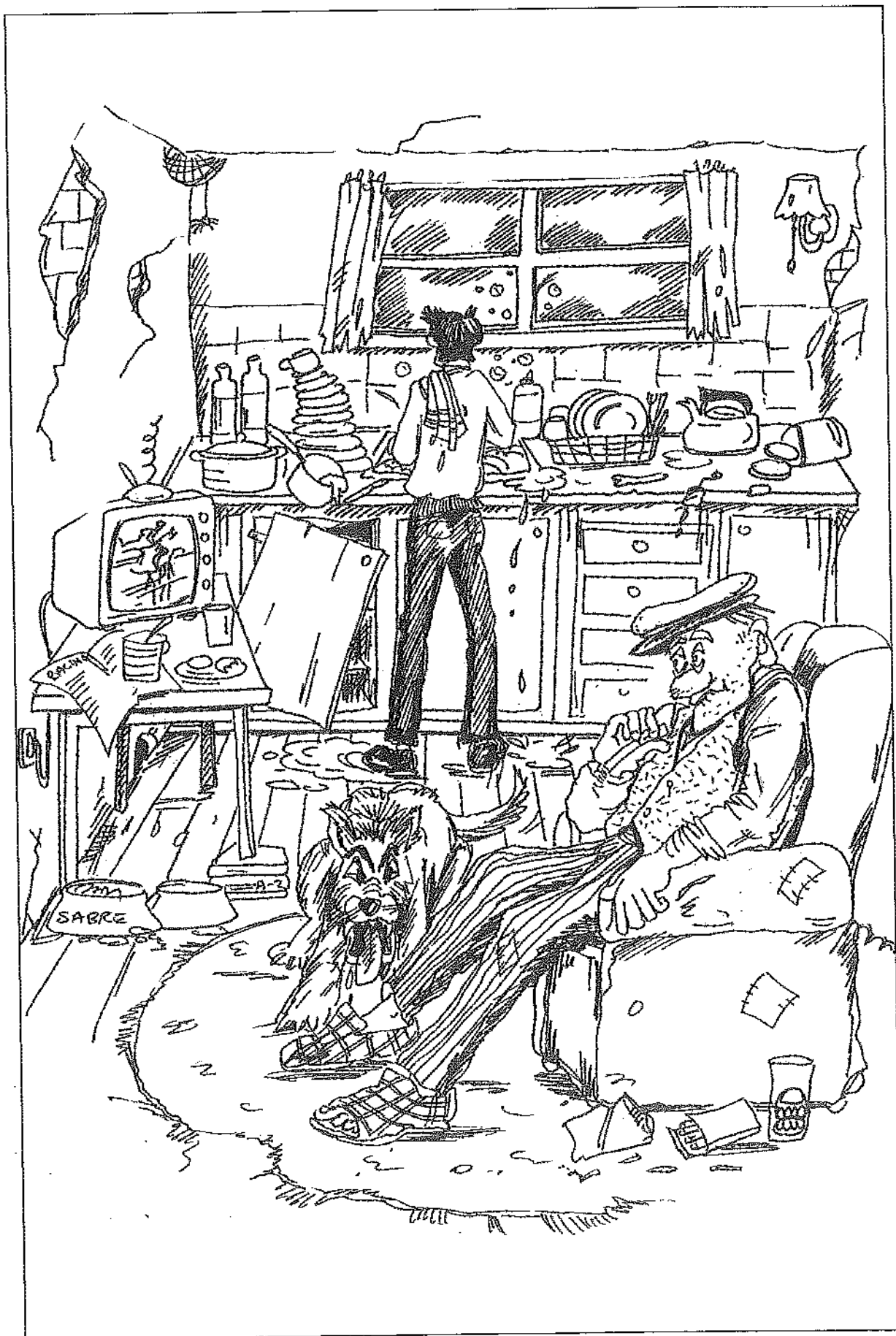
Mr Lucas is selling his house. My mother says he wants £90,000.

What will he do with all that money?

My mother says he'll buy a bigger house. I think that's stupid!

If I had £90,000, I would travel around the world. Before I set off, I would:

- a) Send Pandora three dozen red roses.
- b) Pay someone £100 to hit Barry Kent.
- c) Buy the best racing bike in the world and ride past Nigel's house.



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- d) Buy an enormous box of expensive dog food so that the dog has enough to eat while I'm away.
- e) Buy a home-help for Bert Baxter.
- f) Offer my parents £1000 each to stay together.

When I came back from travelling, I would be tall and brown and Pandora would cry at night because she lost the opportunity to be Mrs Pandora Mole.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST.

My parents are eating different things at different times. So I usually eat six meals a day because I don't want to hurt their feelings. The TV is in my room because they can't decide who it belongs to.

I'm starting to get suspicious about my mother's feelings towards Mr Lucas. I found a note saying, "Pauline, how much longer? I need you desperately. Yours forever, Bimbo."

Although it was signed 'Bimbo', I know it was from Mr Lucas because it was written on the back of his electricity bill.

Someone should tell my father. I have put the note under my bed with the "Big and Bouncy" magazines.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND.

It's my grandma's birthday. I bought her a plant. She is quite happy that my parents are getting a divorce.

The social worker came to see Bert yesterday. She thought he should go into an old people's home. He doesn't want to. He told the social worker a lie! He said his grandson comes to visit every day and looks after him. The social worker is going to investigate the case. I could go to prison for pretending to be Bert's grandson. I don't know how many more problems I can stand!

MARCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH.

My mother went out with Mr Lucas tonight. I am going to stay awake until she comes home.

Midnight. My mother is still not home.

2 a.m. No sign of her.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH.

I fell asleep, so I don't know what time she came home. My father said she had gone to a Christmas Dinner and Dance after work. In March! Really, Dad. You must think I'm stupid!

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH.

Pandora and Nigel have broken up. Everyone at school knows. This is the best news I've had for months.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH.

Nigel has just left. He is **heartbroken**.

I told him that I think Mr Lucas and my mother are having an affair. He said it has been going on for a long time. Everyone knew except me and my father!

It's Mother's Day tomorrow. I don't know if I want to buy her anything.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH.

My father gave me £5 last night to buy my mother a present. He said it might be the last time. I bought her a box of chocolates. I gave it to her this morning and she said, "Adrian, you shouldn't have." She was right.

My mother has arranged a civilised meeting tonight. Mr Lucas is going to be there. I am *not* invited. I am going to listen at the door.

MONDAY, MARCH 30TH.

A terrible thing happened last night. My father and Mr Lucas had a civilised meeting at five o'clock.



TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST.

My mother has gone to Sheffield with Mr Lucas. She had to drive because Mr Lucas couldn't see out of his black eyes. I told the school secretary that my mother has left home. She was very nice. Now I get free school dinners.

Nigel asked Barry Kent to stop taking money from me. He said he would think about it.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND.

I am 14 today! I got a tracksuit and a football from my father, £10 from my mother and £5 from Mr Lucas. (They feel bad.)

Nigel sent me a joke card. On the front it says, "Who's sexy, charming, intelligent and handsome?" Inside it says, "Well, it certainly isn't you!" Not funny!

Bert sent me a card, and a **book token** for ten **shillings**. It had to be used before December 1958! But it was a nice thought.

So at last I'm 14. I looked in the mirror tonight and I think I look older. (Except for the spots.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH.

My father and I cleaned the house today, because my grandma is coming for tea tomorrow. We went to the supermarket together. My father chose food that is bad for you. I bought fruit and salad. When we went to pay for the shopping, he couldn't find his credit card, and they wouldn't take a cheque. I had to lend my father some of my birthday money.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH.

I made my father get up at 1 p.m. He asked me if I missed my mother. I replied, "Of course I do, but life must go on."

He said, "I don't see why." I thought he was suicidal, so I went upstairs to the bathroom and hid his **shaving razor**.

After dinner, my father shouted from the bathroom for his

razor. I lied and said I didn't know where it was. He tried to use his battery razor, but the batteries had gone green. I don't understand why he was so angry that he couldn't shave.

Tea was a bit boring. My grandma shouted at my father for growing a beard. And she said lots of horrible things about my mother.

We were both happy when she went home.

I looked at *Big and Bouncy*.

MONDAY, APRIL 6TH.

I got a postcard from my mother. She said I could go and stay with them for a weekend when they found a house.

I didn't show it to my father.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH.

Barry Kent is in trouble for drawing a **nude** woman in Art.

There was a phone call from my mother. Her voice sounded funny, as if she had a cold. She kept saying, "You'll understand one day, Adrian." I could hear strange noises down the phone. I'm sure it was Lucas kissing her neck. I've seen them do it in films.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH.

My father and I had a good conversation last night. He asked, "Do you want to live with me or your mother?" I said I wanted to live with both of them. He told me he's got a friend from work. She's called Doreen Slater. He said he wants me to meet her. He isn't exactly a suicidal, heartbroken husband!

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH.

I went to stay at Nigel's house because his parents are on holiday. His house is fantastic! Very modern. His bedroom is enormous and he's got a stereo, a colour telly and a guitar. The room has black walls and a white carpet. Nigel has lots of old copies of *Big and Bouncy*. We looked at them, then Nigel had a

cold shower and I cooked the soup.

I rode on Nigel's racing bike. If I had to choose between a racing bike and Pandora, I'd choose the bike. Sorry, Pandora. We went to the chip shop and bought fish, chips and onions. Nigel gets lots of pocket money. Before we went to bed, we drank some whisky. I had never tasted whisky before, and I will never drink it again. I don't know how people enjoy it. If it was in a medicine bottle, they would pour it down the sink! I don't remember going to bed.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH.

This weekend with Nigel has opened my eyes! I never knew that I have been living in poverty for 14 years! I live in a horrible house, eat terrible food and don't get enough pocket money. My father will have to look for a better job.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14TH.

I had a postcard from my mother. She has found a flat. She wants me to visit her and Mr Lucas in Sheffield as soon as possible. Why can't my mother write a letter like a normal person? Why should the postman be able to read our business?

SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH. EASTER SUNDAY

My father forgot to go to the bank on Friday so we have no money. He's in a bad mood because he can't buy any cigarettes.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST.

My father was the first person at the bank this morning. But the cashier told him that he doesn't have any more money in his bank account. My father asked to see the manager. I was very ashamed. I hid behind a plastic plant until the shouting stopped. The manager agreed to lend my father money. My mother sent me the money for the train, so I'm going to Sheffield tomorrow.

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22ND.

My mother started crying when she met me at the train station. I wish my mother would come home. I had forgotten how nice she is. I hope my father feeds the dog.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH.

I helped my mother to paint her kitchen yesterday. She bought me a new pair of trousers. Today Lucas is at home. He makes me sick. He is always kissing my mother or touching her. I don't know how she stands it. He calls her "Paulie".

I told her about my father and Doreen Slater. I wanted to make her jealous, but she only laughed. I wonder why?

SUNDAY, 26TH APRIL.

My father met me at the station when I arrived home today. He told me that Doreen Slater had come for tea. The house was so messy, I think she came for breakfast, dinner and tea! I've never seen her, but I now know she has bright red hair, wears orange lipstick and sleeps on the left side of the bed.

TUESDAY, MAY 5TH.

I saw our postman on the way to school. He said that my mother is coming to visit me on Saturday. I think I'll report him for reading other people's postcards.

My father read my postcard while I was at school. He looked happy and started to clean the house. Then he rang Doreen Slater. He told her he couldn't take her to the cinema on Saturday. Doreen Slater shouted at him. My father shouted back that he didn't want a long-term relationship. Then he put the phone down. I think he has gone mad – he cleaned the house until 2 a.m. The poor man is sure my mother is coming back forever!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH.

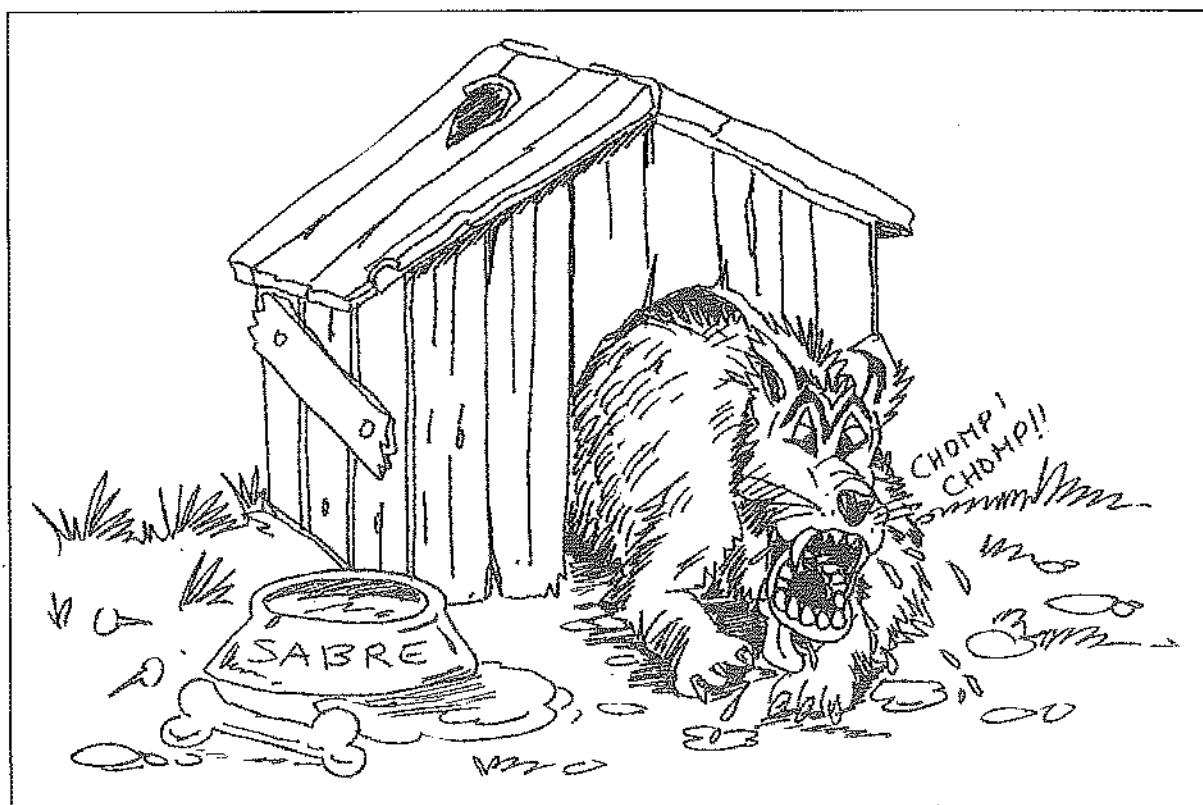
In Geography today Pandora asked me to lend her my ruler. I gave it to her, and smiled as nicely as I could. I hope she remembers to give it back to me.

THURSDAY, MAY 7TH.

Bert Baxter phoned the school to ask me to go to his house immediately. The headmaster was angry. Bert was in a terrible state. He had lost his false teeth! He has had them since 1946. They have sentimental value for him because they belonged to his father. I couldn't find them anywhere, so I bought him some tins of soups and some yoghurts. Sabre was very quiet. He was chewing something in his **kennel**.

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH.

I found Bert's teeth in Sabre's kennel. Bert washed them and put them back in his mouth. It was the most disgusting thing I've ever seen.



THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

My father bought lots of flowers for my mother. What a smell!

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH.

At 8.30 a.m. a loud banging on the door woke me up. A man had come to **turn off** our electricity because we owed £95.79. I told him he couldn't turn it off – we needed electricity for the stereo and the telly, but it didn't help.

My father was very angry when he came home. Then my mother arrived with Mr Lucas! My mother said my father shouldn't have spent so much money on flowers. But she said it nicely. Mr Lucas gave me money to buy candles. He told my father he would lend him some money, but my father said that all he wanted from him was my mother.

I went to buy the candles while they talked about who I would stay with.

When they left, my father phoned Doreen Slater and went out. The back seat of his car was full of flowers.

THURSDAY, MAY 14TH.

I'm still waiting for Pandora to give me back my ruler.

For supper, we ate tuna fish and biscuits by candlelight. Then I played cards with my father and did my homework. The pages of my exercise book are full of **candle wax**.

FRIDAY, MAY 15TH.

My grandma visited our house earlier. She found us reading by candlelight. She went mad. She said we had to go to her house.

She has given my father a cheque for the electricity bill, but it'll take a week to connect our electricity again.

TUESDAY, MAY 19TH.

We're staying with my grandma, and my father is in trouble because he arrived home late last night. A man of his age!

I had to tell him about Barry Kent because Barry tore my jacket. My father is going to speak to Barry Kent tomorrow and get all my money back, so I could be rich!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH.

Barry Kent denied everything. So my father went to see his father. They just shouted at each other. My father then went to the police, who said that we had no proof. So my father came back and told me to get some proof. I will – tomorrow.

THURSDAY, MAY 21ST.

Barry Kent hit me again, and I have a **bruise** to prove it! My grandma found out. She listened to the whole story, **put on** her hat and went out. She was gone for an hour. She came back, took her coat off and gave me £27. She said, "He won't hit you again, Adrian, but if he does, tell me." Then she made supper.

I bought her a box of chocolates to thank her.

FRIDAY, MAY 22ND.

Everyone at school knows that an old lady of 76 frightened Barry Kent and his dad, and made Barry give me my money back. Barry is so ashamed.

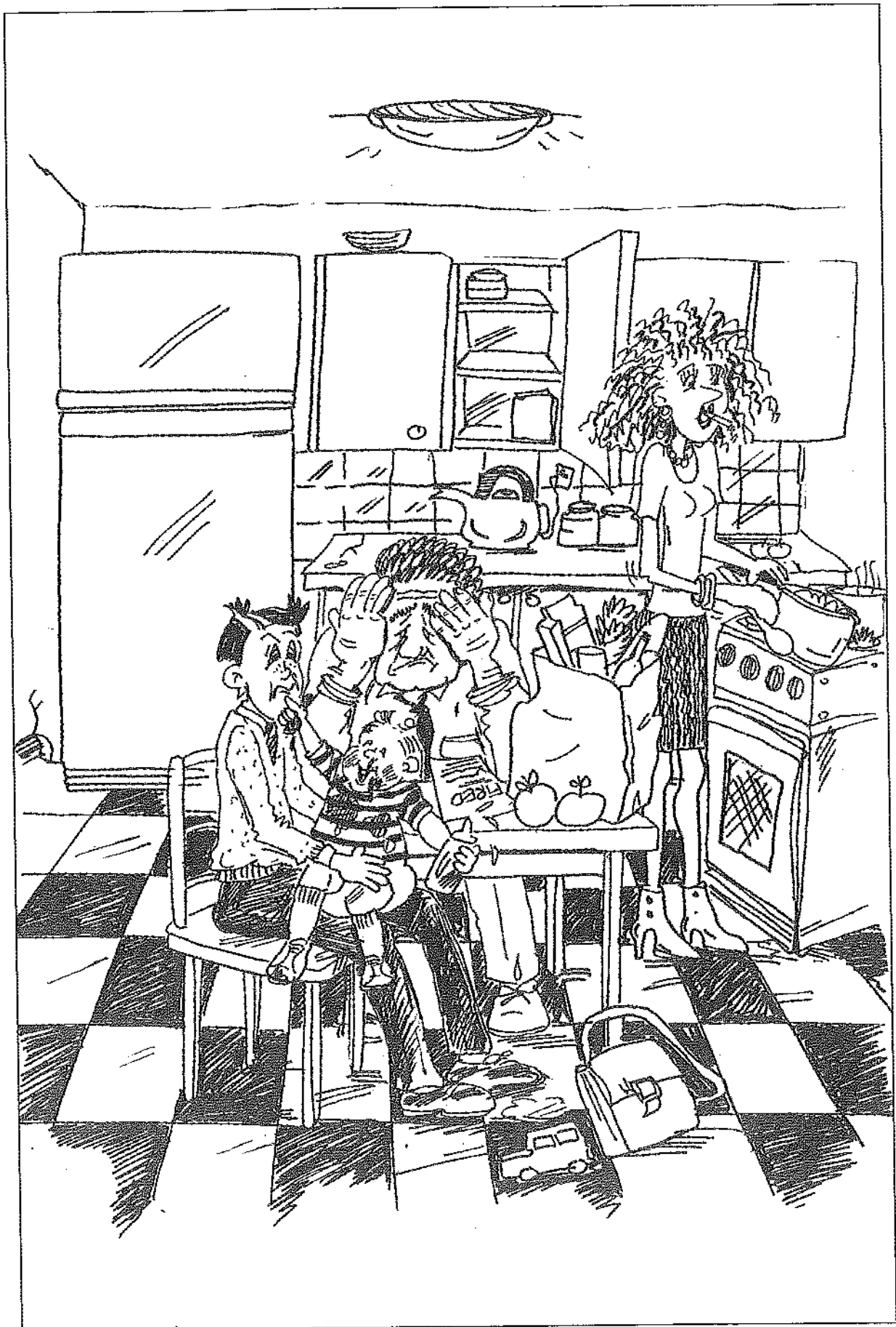
Pandora gave me back my ruler and said, "Thanks, Adrian." She remembered my name!

We are home again. The electricity is back on.

MONDAY, JUNE 1ST.

My father has lost his job! How will we live on the small amount of money the government gives us? The dog will have to go!

I phoned the school and told them that I need to look after my father because he's mentally ill. Doreen Slater came round with a bag full of food and her two-year-old son, Maxwell. She cooked us all a meal. While we were washing up, she told me that she had never been married.



JUNE

TUESDAY, JUNE 2ND.

Doreen and Maxwell slept at our house last night.

Maxwell cried, so he slept between Doreen and my father. My father wasn't pleased about that. Ha! Ha! Ha!

THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH.

My mother phoned early this morning and Doreen answered the phone. My mother asked to speak to me. She wanted to know why Doreen was in the house. I told her that my father was having a nervous breakdown and that Doreen was looking after him. I told her that he had lost his job.

MONDAY, JUNE 8TH.

I have seen Pandora a lot lately. I think she likes me.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH.

Pandora and I are in love! It's official. She told Claire, who told Nigel, who told me. I told Nigel to tell Claire to tell Pandora that I return her love.

I can ignore the fact that Pandora smokes five cigarettes a day. When you're in love, these things are not important.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH.

I spent all day with my love. Can't write much because my hands are still trembling.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH.

I had a message from the school to say that I had to go and see Bert Baxter quickly. I went with Pandora. He's ill. He looked terrible. We phoned the doctor. Then an ambulance came and they took Bert to hospital.

I hope Bert doesn't die. It's not only that I like him; I don't have anything to wear to a funeral.

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17TH.

Bert is a little better. Pandora and I went to get him some things from his house. We exchanged our first really passionate kiss. I felt funny again.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST.

Bert is still in the hospital.

I measured my 'thing'. It has grown one centimetre. I might need it soon.

FRIDAY, JULY 3RD.

I had tonsillitis for a week and I was very ill. My mother came to see me. Now I'm feeling better.

An Indian family, the Singhs, has moved into the Lucas' old house. My father said it was "the beginning of the end of our street." Pandora is in the anti-Nazi club. She thinks my father is racist.

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH. INDEPENDENCE DAY, USA

The street is full of brown-skinned people going in and out of the house next door.

Bert escaped from hospital and has come to live with us. My father can't stand his snoring.

Pandora is going to Tunisia soon for her summer holiday. I will miss her terribly. My skin is excellent. It must be because I'm in love.

SATURDAY, JULY 11TH.

I went to a party last night and got drunk. My first hangover at 14 1/4. Pandora put me to bed. She had to carry me up the stairs. Bert has gone to live with the Singh family next door. He speaks perfect Hindi!

Pandora allowed me to touch her breasts. I promised not to tell anyone, but there's nothing to tell really. I couldn't feel anything through all her clothes.

THURSDAY, JULY 16TH.

My father got a big cheque today from the place where he used to work. He was very happy. He took Doreen out to celebrate, so I am babysitting for Maxwell. Pandora rang at 9.30 p.m. and Maxwell was screaming loudly. She told me to put some vodka in his milk. I did. It worked.

He's OK when he's asleep.

MONDAY, JULY 20TH.

Pandora went to Tunisia two days ago. I haven't had a postcard yet. I have written her a poem.

Pandora! Pandora!

Oh, my love!

You're in Tunisia,

I am here.

Remember me and shed a tear,

Come back tanned and brown and healthy.

You're lucky that your dad is wealthy.

MONDAY, JULY 27TH.

A camel postcard! It said:

My love,

Conditions here are terrible. I was going to buy you a present, but I gave all my money to a poor man. I'm sure you'll understand.

All my love and kisses forever,

Pandora

Imagine giving all my present money to a poor man. Even our postman thought that was terrible!

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29TH.

My grandma and Bert came to our house to watch a film last night on our colour TV. In the middle, there was a **banging** on the door. The Singh's TV had broken down so they came to watch ours. My grandma looked angry. She doesn't like black, brown, yellow, Irish, **Jewish** or foreign people. My father let the Singhs in, then he took my grandma home.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND.

Pandora phoned from Tunisia. She should have come home yesterday but they have been delayed. Someone stole her father's American Express card, and a camel bit her mother.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH.

Pandora finally came home yesterday.

I touched her breasts again. This time I think I felt something soft. My thing keeps growing and **shrinking**. It seems to have a life of its own. I can't control it.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10TH.

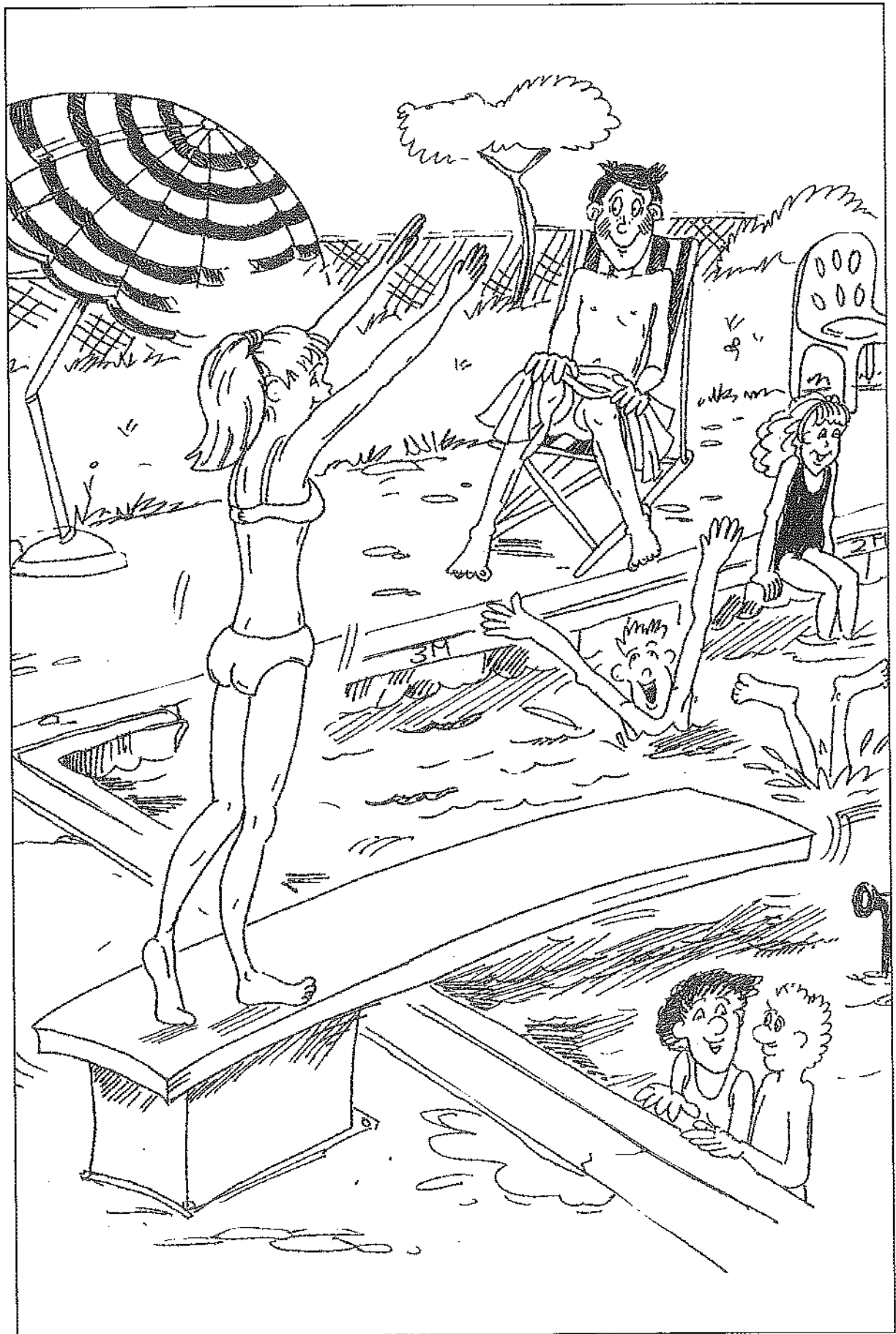
Pandora and I went to the swimming pool this morning. Pandora looked fantastic in a white bikini. She's the same colour as Mr Singh. I didn't trust my 'thing' to behave so I sat and watched her.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13TH.

Pandora says we shouldn't see each other for a while. She thinks we are getting too serious. I admit that my health is suffering! I dream about her in a white bikini and I am always tired.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31ST.

Today is a public holiday and all the banks are closed. My father can't remember his secret number for his **cashpoint** card.



THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

He borrowed £5 from Bert. Imagine taking money from an old man!

Pandora and I are now more in love than ever.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH.

Bert moved back into his own house today because Mr Singh is returning to India to look after his old parents. He won't leave Bert alone with all the women in his house! I think that's stupid, but Bert says it's a compliment. It took us an entire week to clean Bert's house for him. While we were cleaning, Bert sat in a chair and complained. He doesn't understand why you can't live in a dirty house.

Why can't you live in a dirty house?

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH.

School starts on Thursday. How terrible. I tried to put my uniform on. It's so small that my father has to buy me a new uniform tomorrow. I can't help it if my body is growing. I'm only five centimetres shorter than Pandora now. My thing is static at 12 centimetres.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH.

The new uniform cost £200. I don't know why my father is complaining. He didn't pay in *real* money anyway! He used his American Express card.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH.

Today is my mother's birthday. She is 37. I phoned her before school and there was no answer. She was probably in bed with that horrible Lucas.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH.

I'm happy that September is finished. It's been a month with one problem after another. Pandora is too big for her horse, Blossom, and she has to sell it. She's very sad. Bert can hardly

OCTOBER

walk. My father is still not working. My mother is still in love with that worm Lucas.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST.

7.30 a.m. I woke up to find that my chin is covered in spots! How can I face Pandora?

10 p.m. I avoided Pandora all day, but she caught me at school dinners. I tried to eat with my hand over my chin, but it was very difficult. I had to tell her. She said it makes no difference to our love, but I can't help thinking that her kisses didn't have the same passion when we said goodnight.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH.

They've taken Bert to an old people's home. At first, he shared a room with another man. But then the other man died. Now Bert is the only man in the home. Pandora says that women live longer than men. She says it's a **bonus** because women suffer so much when they're younger.

Our dog is missing.

I'm worried about my father. He lies in bed until lunchtime, then he watches the TV. He isn't looking for a new job.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH.

We had an angry phone call from my grandma to ask when we were going to collect our dog! The stupid dog has been there since October 6th. I was shocked when I saw it. It looks thin and old. In human years it is 11 years old. In dog years it must be ancient. Eight days with my grandma must have been hell.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH.

8 p.m. I've just returned from a two-day survival trip with our youth club. It's wonderful to be back in civilisation. I slept on hard ground in a sleeping bag. I tried to cook chips over a camp fire. We walked through rivers. I couldn't have a bath or clean my teeth. No TV or radio.

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

I don't know how I survived. My eggs broke, my bread got wet and nobody had a tin-opener. Thank God cheese doesn't get wet, break or come in a tin.

No school tomorrow. I can't walk!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD.

I had a letter today from the hospital. It says that I've got an operation on October 27th to remove my tonsils. This is a complete shock to me. My father says I've been on the waiting list since I was five years old. So I have suffered from tonsillitis every year for nine years because the Health Service hasn't got enough money.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH.

We went shopping for new pyjamas. My father complained as usual. He didn't understand why I couldn't wear my old pyjamas in hospital. I told him I would look stupid in my Peter Pan pyjamas.

My grandma phoned to say that she knew someone who had their tonsils removed. He **bled to death** on the operating table. She finished by saying, "Don't worry, Adrian, I'm sure you'll be all right."

Thanks very much, Grandma!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26TH.

11 a.m. I went to see Bert. He also knows someone who bled to death after his tonsils were removed. I hope it's the same person.

I said goodbye to Pandora. She cried. She gave me one of Blossom's old **horseshoes** for luck.

6 p.m. I am now in hospital, alone.

NOVEMBER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27TH.

4 a.m. I haven't had anything to eat or drink since yesterday evening. I'm dehydrated.

6 a.m. They woke me up. The operation is not until 10 a.m. So why can't I sleep? I've got to have another bath. I told them it's the *inside* of my body that is being operated on, but they don't listen.

7 a.m. A Chinese nurse stayed in the bathroom to make sure I didn't drink any water. She was watching me, so I had to put a hospital sponge on my thing.

7.30 a.m. I'm dressed like an idiot. I'm very thirsty. I have to hide my diary somewhere.

My mother has arrived. She's going to put my diary in her handbag. She promised (on the dog's life) not to read it.

9.15 a.m. They're coming to get me!

Midnight. No tonsils. Terrible pain. It took my mother 13 minutes to find my diary. She's got a very big handbag.

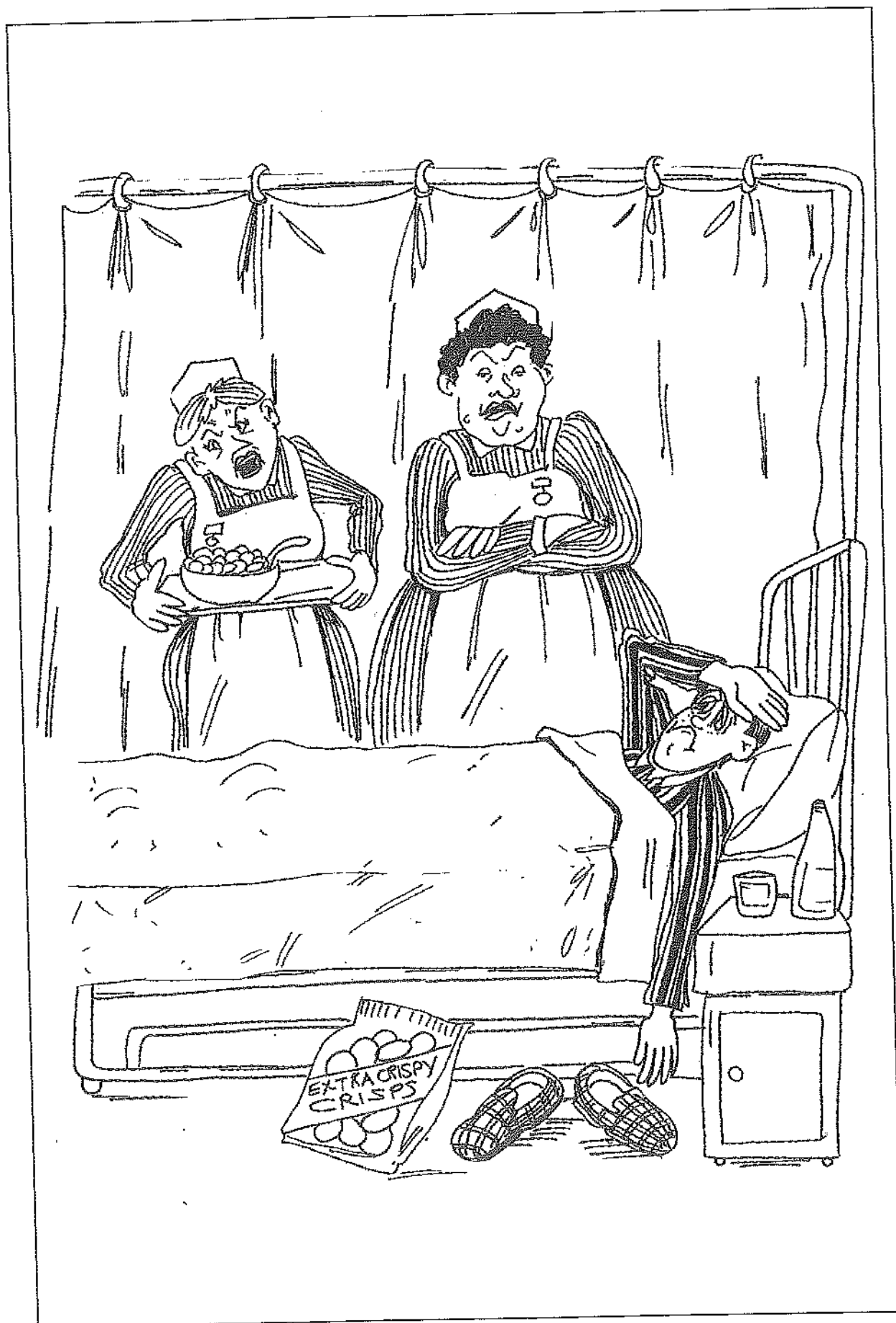
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH.

I was able to drink a little of my grandma's soup today. My father brought me some crisps; it would be easier to eat razor blades!

Pandora came at visiting time. We didn't talk much. There isn't much to say when you're between life and death.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST.

The nurses are sick of me. However, the doctor says I must eat a bowl of cornflakes before I can go home. Until now, I've refused. My throat hurts too much.



NOVEMBER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND.

The nurse came and forced a spoon of cornflakes down my throat. And before I could say anything, she told me to get out of bed and get dressed. She offered to pay for a taxi, but I told her I would wait for my father to come and carry me to our car.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH. BONFIRE NIGHT

I can now speak a little. We went to a bonfire party tonight. Pandora took all her old comics and burned them. I burned the red phone bill that came this morning. We had lots of fireworks. Nobody was hurt. I locked up our dog in the house.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH.

There is a lot of smoke everywhere today.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH.

Pandora and I had a serious talk tonight. She doesn't want to marry me in two years' time. She wants a career instead! I was shocked.

We said terrible things to each other.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH.

I went to visit Bert today, but he was with his girlfriend. She is called Queenie.

My father is worrying me. Nothing makes him happy.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD.

Had a Christmas card from my grandma, and a letter to say they are cutting off the phone!

2 a.m. What am I going to do about the phone bill? I burned it because I didn't want my father to see how big it was. Pandora and I spoke to each other for hours when she was in Tunisia. I didn't realise it was so expensive.

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH.

A telegram! Addressed to me! From my mother. It says:

"ADRIAN STOP COMING HOME STOP"

What does she mean, "Stop coming home"? How can I stop coming home? I live here.

They cut the phone off. I'm thinking about running away from home.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH.

My mother arrived home with no warning. She had all her suitcases with her. My father threw himself on her. I'm now sitting in my room. I'm trying to decide how I feel about her return.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH.

My mother and father were still in bed when I left for school this morning. They are in bed again now and it's only 9 p.m!

Even the dog is happy that my mother is home. It has been smiling all day.

My parents don't know about the phone yet.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND.

My father tried to phone about a job today. There was no phone line. He went mad.

My mother cleaned my room today. She found my *Big and Bouncy* magazines and the blue phone bill under my bed.

I sat in the kitchen while they questioned me and shouted at me. My father wanted to hit me, but my mother said it would be a better punishment if I paid the bill myself, using my savings.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD.

I took £200 out of my bank account today. I had tears in my eyes. It will take another 14 years to save the money again. It's

DECEMBER

all Pandora's father's fault. Why didn't he choose to go on holiday in England?

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH.

I had a letter from my grandma to ask me why I hadn't sent her a Christmas card yet.

They've reconnected the phone.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH.

My mother told me why she left Lucas and returned to my father. She said, "He treated me like a sex object, Adrian, and he expected me to cook for him. And anyway, I'm very fond of your father." She didn't mention me!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH.

I'm in the Christmas play at school. I am Joseph. Pandora is Mary. Peter Brown, who is very small, is Jesus. He takes medicine to make him grow.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH.

Pandora and I had a private Mary and Joseph rehearsal in my bedroom.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH.

I went to see Bert in the home. I have invited him and Queenie for Christmas Day. My mother doesn't know yet but I'm sure she won't mind. I sang Christmas songs in the pub this evening – I made enough money to buy presents. I didn't have enough money to buy Pandora Chanel No. 5 perfume, so I bought her deodorant instead.

The house looks very clean. I have looked everywhere for my presents, but they weren't in the usual place. I want a racing bike. Nothing else will make me happy.

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH. CHRISTMAS DAY

I got up at 5 a.m. and found a new racing bike outside my bedroom door!

My parents drank too much alcohol last night. So I took them breakfast in bed and gave them my presents. My mother loved the egg-timer and my father was very happy with his bookmark. Everyone was happy until I mentioned that I had invited Bert and Queenie for lunch, and asked my father to pick them up.

My father eventually agreed to pick them up at one o'clock. I went up to the bathroom and found my mother crying. She was holding the turkey under the hot water. She said "The turkey won't defrost, Adrian." I told her to put it in the oven. She did.

We sat down to eat Christmas lunch four hours late. By then, my father was too drunk to eat anything.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26TH.

I went out on my bike. I ate lunch at my grandma's. Then I went to give Pandora her present. She gave me a bottle of aftershave. It was a proud moment. I am now officially an adult.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH.

The house is a disaster again. My parents took a bottle of vodka and two glasses to bed with them last night. I haven't seen them today.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28TH.

I'm in trouble because I left my bike outside last night. My parents aren't speaking to me. I don't care. I've shaved and I feel great.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31ST.

The last day of the year! A lot has happened this year. I have fallen in love. I've been a one-parent child. I've had my tonsils out.



THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

My parents went to a New Year's Eve dance. They came back drunk at 1 a.m. My mother started telling me that I'm a wonderful son and that she loves me very much. It's a pity she never says anything like that when she isn't drunk.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST. NEW YEAR'S DAY

These are my New Year's resolutions. I promise that:

- 1) I will be **faithful** to Pandora.
- 2) I will not leave my bike outside at night.
- 3) I will not read rude or unsuitable books.
- 4) I will study hard.
- 5) I will clean the bath after I use it.
- 6) I will stop worrying about the size of my 'thing'.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8TH.

I got a wedding invitation from Bert and Queenie. In my opinion it's a waste of time. He's nearly 90 and she is 80. I'll leave it until the last minute before I buy them a wedding present.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH.

I can't understand why my father looks so old compared to the President of the USA. My father has got no work or worries, but he looks awful. The poor President has to carry the world's safety on his shoulders, yet he's always smiling. It doesn't make sense.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH.

Bert got married today.

All the old ladies from the home went to watch. Bert looked really nice. He was wearing a new suit. Queenie wore a hat made of flowers and fruit. She had a lot of orange make-up on her face to cover the lines. After the wedding, the old ladies threw rice. Bert and Queenie are moving into a new house on Monday. They are having their honeymoon in the old people's

home. Honeymoon! Ha! Ha! Ha!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28TH.

I only got six out of 20 for my Maths homework. Pandora got it all correct.

I got 15 out of 20 for History. Pandora got 21 out of 20. She got an extra point because she knew the name of Hitler's father.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30TH.

Migraine. Too ill to write.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31ST.

Pandora came round. I copied her homework. I feel better now.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST.

My mother has given my father an ultimatum: either he finds a job, or starts doing housework, or leaves home. He's looking for a job.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD.

They took my father's credit cards away. We haven't got any money. My mother is looking for a job.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH.

It's Valentine's Day tomorrow. A big card came today; it was posted in Sheffield.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH. ST VALENTINE'S DAY

Pandora sent me a Valentine's card. It was lovely. She wrote, "Adrian, it is you alone." I gave Pandora a card and a poem.

My father threw the Sheffield card in the bin. My mother took it out when my father went to the pub. It said, "Pauline, I'm going mad."

My mother smiled and threw it away.

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND.

Once again, I've got spots. I'm sure some lovemaking would improve my skin. Pandora says she's not going to risk becoming a single parent just because of a few spots.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH.

My 'thing' is now 13 centimetres long when it is extended. My general physique is improving.

We are now living on government money. My mother has stopped smoking.

MONDAY, MARCH 1ST.

My father has stopped smoking. He's in a terrible mood.

I had to lend him money for petrol. He had an interview for a job. My mother cut his hair and shaved him.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3RD.

My parents are ill from not smoking.

My father is now waiting to hear whether he's got the job.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4TH.

No news yet about the job.

My parents are unbearable. I almost wish they would start smoking again.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5TH.

He got it!!!

He starts on Monday. He's in charge of a group of teenagers. Their job is to clear all the rubbish from the sides of the river. To celebrate, he bought cigarettes for himself and my mother and I got chocolate.

Everybody is happy. Even the dog.

MARCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 9TH.

My schoolwork is getting worse.

I think I'm anorexic.

Pandora refuses to make love with me. Sometimes I wonder what she sees in me. I'm terrified she'll leave me.

MONDAY, MARCH 15TH.

I am loved by two women! Elizabeth Sally Broadway (E.S.B.) gave Victoria Louise Thomson (V.L.T.) a note in Maths. It said, "Ask Adrian Mole if he wants to go out with me." V.L.T. passed on the message. I replied to V.L.T. in the negative. E.S.B. looked sad and started to cry.

Perhaps I'm not ugly, even with all my spots.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16TH.

Pandora and E.S.B. had a fight at school. I am shocked at Pandora. Last week she told me she was a pacifist.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23RD.

I will be 15 in 11 days. I only have to wait one year and 11 days to get married, if I want to.

The only thing that really worries me about my appearance now is my ears. They **stick out** like Prince Charles' ears.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH.

I went for a meeting on politics this morning. I met somebody new there. She's called Barbara Bayer. She is pretty and also very intelligent. She disagreed with Pandora about a number of ideas.

MONDAY, MARCH 29TH.

I ate my school dinner with Barbara Bayer. She's wonderful. She told me that Pandora has a lot of faults. I had to agree with her.

I told Nigel in secret that I liked Barbara. He has told the whole school. Pandora was very upset.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST.

Barbara Bayer told me she didn't want to see me any more. She said she couldn't stand seeing the pain in Pandora's eyes.

I have learned an important lesson. Because of wanting too much, I am now without love.

I'm 15 tomorrow. I shaved to **cheer myself up**.

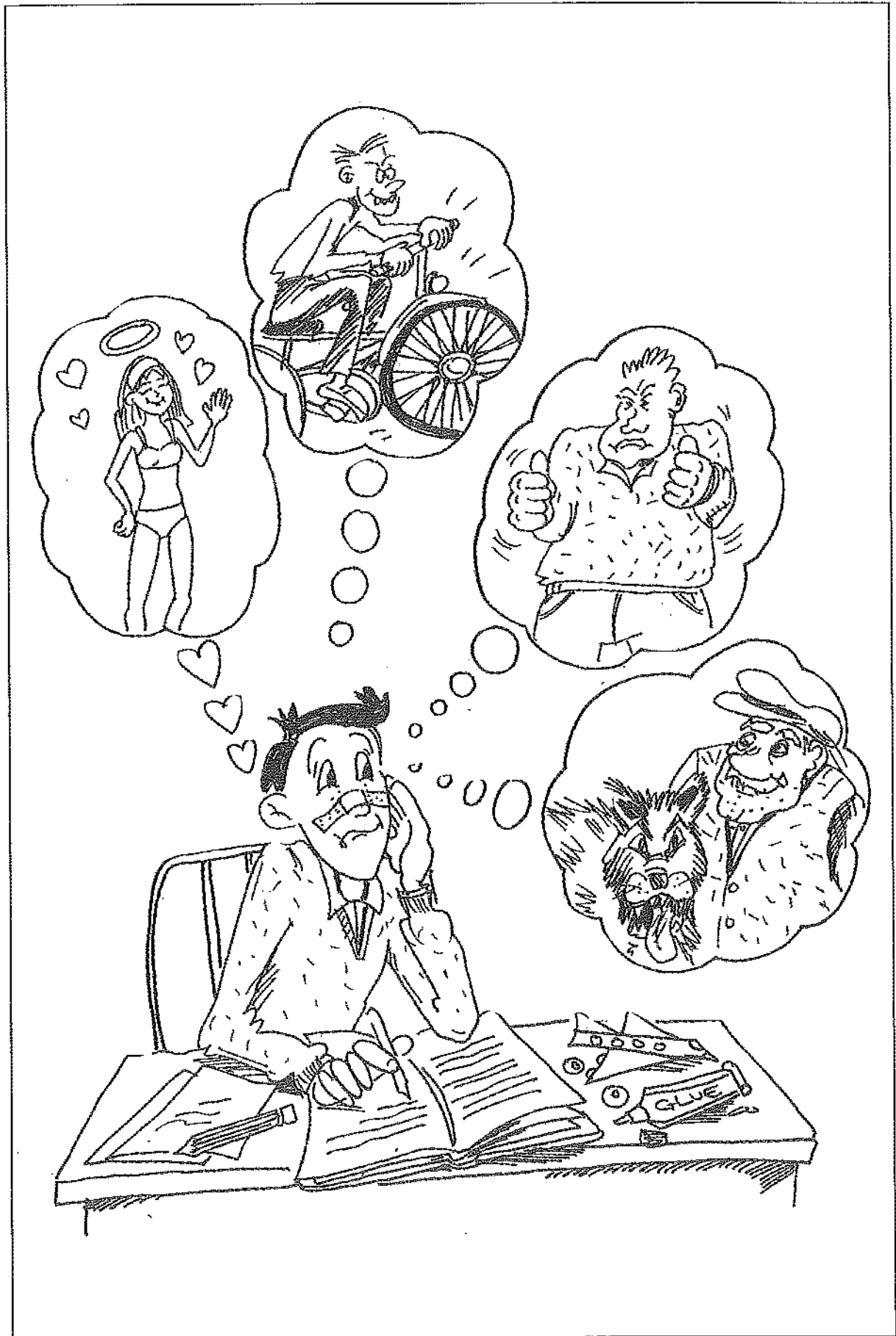
FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND.

I'm 15, but legally I'm still a child. There's nothing I can do today that I couldn't do yesterday. Pandora hasn't sent me a birthday card. I don't **blame** her.

Bert gave me a model aeroplane.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD.

4 p.m. I've just had the most embarrassing experience of my life. It happened when I was building my model aeroplane. I had nearly finished it when I decided to try an experimental sniff of the glue. I smelled the glue for five seconds. I didn't experience anything out of the ordinary, but my nose **stuck** to the plane. My father took me to the hospital to have it removed. Everyone laughed at me. I was so embarrassed. I phoned Pandora when I got home. She's coming to see me after her music lesson. Thank God for love!



Questions on the Text

1. What are New Year's resolutions?
2. Why does Adrian think that his spot is growing?
3. When the dog has the operation, what does the vet find? Why?
4. Exactly how old is Adrian at the beginning of his diary?
5. Why did Adrian think Nigel was being polite when he told him that he was going to the doctor?
6. Why did Adrian decide to go and see a private doctor?
7. Adrian took some comic books to a 'poor family'. Why did he think they were poor?
8. Why did Adrian think he would probably be a teenage criminal out on the streets?
9. Why does Adrian have to visit a man called Bert Baxter?
10. Where did Adrian's mother get a job?
11. Why is Adrian angry with Nigel?
12. Adrian says that his father is cross because Mr Lucas doesn't want to see him. What do you think the real reason is?
13. Why does Mr Lucas stay with Adrian's family?
14. Why does Adrian wish he knew karate?
15. What happened when Adrian's father went fishing? What happened when he arrived home?
16. Where does Pandora live? How does Adrian find this out?
17. How did Adrian find out his parents were separating?
18. How did Adrian's grandmother feel about his parents' divorce?
19. Why did Adrian hide his father's shaving razor?

QUESTIONS

20. What did Adrian think after his weekend with Nigel?
21. Why did Adrian tell his mother about his father and Doreen Slater?
22. What was Adrian's reaction when the postman told him that Adrian's mother was coming to visit on Saturday?
23. What did Adrian's father do with the flowers he had bought for his wife?
24. What happened when Adrian's grandmother found Adrian and his father reading by candlelight?
25. Who solved Adrian's problem with Barry Kent?
26. Why does Adrian hope that Bert Baxter doesn't die?
27. Why does Pandora think Adrian's father is racist?
28. What did Pandora say she had done with the money for Adrian's present?
29. Why did Pandora tell Adrian they shouldn't see each other for a while?
30. Why is Adrian so worried about the operation to remove his tonsils?
31. Why did Adrian burn the telephone bill at the bonfire party?
32. Why did Adrian's mother leave Mr Lucas?
33. Why did they have Christmas lunch four hours late?
34. Why did Adrian believe Bert and Queenie's wedding was a waste of time?
35. Why did Pandora refuse to make love with Adrian?
36. Why didn't Pandora send Adrian a birthday card?
37. What happened to Adrian when he sniffed the glue on the model plane?

GLOSSARY

English	Castellano	Català
am fond of you	te tengo cariño	et tinc en molta estima
<i>Big and Bouncy</i>	título de una revista erótica	títol d'una revista eròtica
banging	aporreamiento	cops, trucs
beating	latiendo	bategant
blame	culpo	culpo
bled to death	se desangró	es va dessagnar
blows bubblegum	hace globos de chicle	fa globus de xiclet
 Bonfire night	 Noche de las hogueras	 Nit de les fogueres
bonus	ventaja	prima, bonus
book token	vale para comprar libros	tiquet per comprar llibres
break down	averiarse	avarar-se
breasts	pechos	pits
brown-skinned	de piel morena	de pell morena
bruise	cardenal	blau
came round	vino a mi casa	va venir a casa meva
 candle-wax	 cera de vela	 cera d'espelma
care	el cuidado	la cura
cashpoint	cajero automático	caixer automàtic
 cheer myself up	 animarme	 animar-me
chest	pecho	pit
cutting off	cortar	tallar
delivering	repartiendo	repartint
disgusting	repugnantes	repugnants

GLOSSARY

English	Euskara	Galego
am fond of you	asko estimatzen zaitut	téñoche agarimo
<i>Big and Bouncy</i>	aldizkari erotiko baten izena	título dunha revista erótica
banging	kolpekada	boureo
beating	taupadaka	latexando
blame	errua bota	culpo
bled to death	odolustu	desangrouse
blows bubblegum	txiklearekin globoak egin	fai globos de goma de mascar
Bonfire night	suen gaua	Noite das fogueiras
bonus	abantaila	ventaxe
book token	liburuak erosteko txartela	vale para mercar libros
break down	matxuratu	avariarse
breasts	bularrak	seos
brown-skinned	azal beltzarana	de pel morena
bruise	ubeldura	mazadura
came round	nire etxera etorri zen	veu á miña casa
candle-wax	kandela-argizari	cera de vela
care	zaintzea	o coidado
cashpoint	kutxazain automatikoa	caixero automático
cheer myself up	animatu	aledarme
chest	bulárrak	peito
cutting off	moztu	cortar
delivering	banatzen	repartindo
disgusting	nazkagarriak	noxentas

GLOSSARY

English	Castellano	Català
egg-timer	reloj para hervir huevos	rellotge per bullir ous
faithful	fiel	fidel
fireworks	fuegos artificiales	focs artificials
goolies	huevos	ous
gravy	salsa	salsa
hangover	resaca	ressaca
heartbroken	con el corazón destrozado	amb el cor destrossat
hits	éxitos	èxits
horseshoes	herraduras	ferradures
jealous	celoso	gelós
Jewish	judía (religión)	jueva (religió)
kennel	caseta	caseta
lovemaking	sexo	sexe
mongrel	chucho	quisso
mood	humor	humor
netball	juego similar al baloncesto	joc similar al basquetbol
nude	desnuda	despullada, nua
one-parent child	hijo que sólo convive con padre / madre	fill que conviu només amb pare / mare
punctured	pinchó	es va punxar
put on	se puso	es va posar
racing	de carreras	de carreres
ran away	huí	vaig fugir
rehearsal	ensayo	assaig
resolutions	propósitos	propòsits

GLOSSARY

English	Euskara	Galego
egg-timer	arraultzak egosteko erlojua	reloxo para ferver ovos
faithful	leial	fiel
fireworks	su artifizialak	fogos de lucería
goolies	barrabilak	collóns
gravy	saltsa	prebe
hangover	aje	resaca
heartbroken	bihotza erdibituta	co corazón desfeito
hits	arrakastak	éxitos
horseshoes	ferrak	ferraduras
jealous	jeloskor	ciumento
Jewish	judu	xudía
kennel	txabola	caseto
lovemaking	sexu-harreman	sexo
mongrel	arratoi-txakur	cadelo
mood	umore	humor
netball	saskibaloia tankerako jokua	xogo semellante ó básquet
nude	biluzik	espida
one-parent child	gurasoetako batekin bakarrik bizi den haurra	fillo que só convive co pai / nai
punctured	zulatu zuen	pinchou
put on	jantzi zuen	púxose
racing	lasterketako	de carreiras
ran away	ihes egin zuen	fuxín
rehearsal	entseiu	ensaio
resolutions	asmoak	propósitos

GLOSSARY

English	Castellano	Català
riding clothes	ropa de montar	roba de muntar
round	ruta	ruta de repartidor
royalty	realeza	reialesa
rude words	palabrotas	paraulotes
run over	atropelle	atropelli
saddle	sillín	seient
set off	irme	anar-me'n
shaving razor	cuchilla de afeitar	fulla d'afaitar
shed	derrama	vessa
shillings	chelines	xílings
shrinking	encogiéndose	encongint-se
sickbed	cama de enfermo	llit de malalt
spare room	cuarto de invitados	habitació de convidats
spots	espinillas	barbs
squeezing	estrujar	rebentar
stands	soporta	suporta
stick out	sobresalen	sobresurten
stuck	se pegó	es va enganxar
telly	tele	tele
thoughtful	considerados	considerats
tonsillitis	anginas	angines
treacle	melaza	melassa
turkey	pavo	gall dindi
turn off	cortar	tallar
wet dream	polución nocturna	pol·lució nocturna